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USFMCR.066C3

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Zha, et al.

Appl. No. : 10/042,128

Filed : January 7, 2002

For : SCOURING METHOD

Examiner : Unknown

) Group Art Unit Unknown
)

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
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) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
) 20231, on

February 6, 2002

(Date)

Rose M. Thiessen, Reg. No. 40,202

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/336,059, filed June 18, 1999, which is a continuation, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU97/00855 which has an International filing date of December 18, 1997, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on July 2, 1998.--